

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 021210Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSYJIJDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USINT CAIRO
UXINT ALGIERS 84

S E C R E T TEHRAN 6996

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, IR
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH

REF: (A) TEHRAN 6982 (NOTAL)
(B) TEHRAN 6983 (NOTAL)

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH SHAH ON OCTOBER 1, FOLLOWING
ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

(A) AFGHANIYAN IS MUCH ON SHAH'S MIND. HE BELIEVES
THAT WHETHER OR NOT SOVIETS WERE BEHIND COUPE THEY ARE
CAPITALIZING ON CURRENT SITUATION AND ARE WELL ON THEIR
WAY TO TURNING AFGHANISTAN INTO A COMMUNIST STATE. REFER-
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RING TO THE ROLL-UP OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN RECENT
COUNTER COUP, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, "COULD THE AFGHANS
WITHOUT KGB ASSISTANCE HANDLE SOPHISTICATED
OPERATIONS LIKE PHONE TAPS, SURVEILLANCE, AND INTERCEPTION

OF MESSAGES?" HE RECOGNIZES THAT SPATE
OF ARRESTS HAVE
DAMAGED AFGHAN AIR FORCE AND POLICE, AND HE MUSED AS TO
WHERE THIS WILL ALL COME OUT: WILL AFGHANISTAN DISINTEGRATE
INTO A COUNTRY OF TRIBAL FACTIONS OR WILL IT BECOME A GENUINE
POLICE STATE UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL? IN THE LONG TERM HE
SEES NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR IRAN IN WHAT IS LIKELY TO
EVOLVE. REFERRING TO ALLEGED PAKISTANI INVOLVEMENT WITH
THE COUNTER COUP, HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SEE WHAT WAS
SO WRONG WITH THAT WHEN THE AFGHANS WERE MAKING PUBLIC
STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT BALUCHI DISSIDENCE IN PAKISTAN
WAS NOTHING BUT AN EXTENSION OF THE PUSHTUNISTAN PROBLEM.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHAH FEELS THAT THE AFGHANS ARE MEDDLING
IN PAKISTANI AFFAIRS AND THEREFOR SHOULD NOT COMPLAIN WHEN

THE SAME IS DONE TO THEM. NAIM'S TRIPS TO MOSCOW, NEW
DELHI AND BAGHDAD CAUSE THE SHAH TO WONDER WHETHER OR NOT
THIS TRAVEL IS BEING DONE AT MOSCOW'S BEHEST SINCE HE VIEWS
IT AS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE RUSSIANS DO NOT WANT TO STAND
ALONE

IN SUPPORTING THE PRESENT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND
ARE LOOKING FOR COMPANY FROM INDIA AN IRAQ. (KABUL
7067 NOTED OCTOBER 2.)

(B) THE SHAH GOT AN AFFIRMATIVE
ANSWER FROM ME WHEN HE
ASKED IF BHUTTO'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON HAD INDEED GONE WELL.
SINCE HE IS FAMILIAR WITH OUR POLICY ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN,
HE DID NOT RAISE THE SUBJECT ON THIS OCCASION NOR DID HE
REFER AGAIN TO THE PRESENCE OR IRANIAN HELICOPTERS IN
BALUCHISTAN.

(C) WHEN TALKING ABOUT IRAQ, THE SHAH REITERATED HIS

THEME, "HOW COULD THAT COUNTRY HAVE A WORSE GOVERNMENT THAN
IT DOES AT PRESENT?" HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT SOPHISTICATED
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SOVIET BOMBERS COMING INTO IRAQ, BUT AS POINTED OUT IN

REF (A), THIS WAS DISCUSSED PRIOR TO THE AP STORY, HENCE
IN CONTINGENCY CONTEXT. HE WANTS F-14'S TO INSURE THAT
WHEN HIS ELECTRONIC DEVICES GIVE HIM WARNING OF A POSSIBLE
ATTACK BY TU-22'S, HE CAN HIT THE IRAQIS BEFORE THEY
CAN FLY INTO IRANIAN AIRSPACE. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT
HE REITERATED HIS DESIRE FOR A FIRM COMMITMENT ON F-14/15
PURCHASE.

(D) SINCE THE SHAH WHILE IN WASHINGTON HAD PLEADED
STRONGLY THAT THE USG GIVE JORDAN ANOTHER C-130, HE WAS
PLEASED TO HAVE ME TELL HIM THAT JORDAN WOULD GET THE PLANE AND
THAT A THOROUGH STATEMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR

BROWN TO KING HUSSEIN ABOUT THE TANKS AND OTHER ARMS WHICH HE DESIRED. THE SHAH WAS AWAITING A PROMISED REPORT FROM HUSSEIN ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH SADAT AND ASAD. HE REGARDS THE CHANGED SYRIAN ATTITUDE AS A DISTINCT PLUS AND HAS BEEN INTERESTED TO READ ABOUT RECENT SYRIAN PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON IRAQ.

(E) IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY ABOUT IRANIAN RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, HE SAID THAT THEY CONTINUE TO BE CORRECT, IN FACT SOMEWHAT BETTER. OUT OF THE CLEAR BLUE HE HAD RECEIVED A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM SADAT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ASSUMPTION TO THE THRONE. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH A MESSAGE WAS NOT REQUIRED BY PROTOCOL AND THAT HE COULD ONLY INTERPRET IT AS A FRIENDLY GESTURE FROM SADAT AND THE KHALATBARI VISIT APPARENTLY WENT WELL. THE SHAH FEELS THAT SADAT IS TAKING A MORE CONSERVATIVE LINE AND THIS CLEARLY PLEASES HIM.

(F) THE SHAH REFERRED AGAIN TO THE FRIENDLY COMMENTS ABOUT IRAN EMANATING FROM SAUDI LEADERS. HE RECOGNIZES THAT KING FAISAL IS STILL SOMEWHAT IRRITATED OVER IRAN'S HAVING REPOSSESSED THE GULF ISLANDS, BUT HE ATTRIBUTES THIS TO THE FACT THAT FAISAL HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE ANY OF HIS OWN TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. IN MOMENTS OF REPOSE AND WHEN HE IS NOT ON STAGE, THE SHAH REALIZES THAT IT IS GOING TO BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK OUT ANY FORMAL OR INFORMAL WRITTEN ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN
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IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT IN TIME OF TROUBLE. HE CLAIMS THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO ANY KIND OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH THE SAUDI LEADERS WOULD BUY, AND OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF SOME SORT. MEANWHILE, HE MUST SATISFY HIMSELF WITH FRIENDLY NOISES COMING FROM JIDDA.

(G) THE SHAH HAS PUT HIS EMBASSY IN ALGERIA IN THE HANDS OF A CARETAKER AS A SIGN OF HIS IRRITATION AT BOUMEDIENE'S CHARGES OF IRANIAN IMPERIALISM. HE SAID, "I DO NOT HAVE TO TAKE THIS KIND OF TALK AND HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING SO." HE WONDERED ALOUD WHAT GROUP OF COUNTRIES BOUMEDIENE IS TRYING TO LEAD, AND MADE SOME PASSING REFERENCE TO THE MOSLEM COUNTRIES OF AFRICA SOUTH OF ALGERIA.

(H) AS FOR WESTERN EUROPE, THE SHAH FEELS THAT IRAN'S RELATIONS ARE IN BETTER ORDER. HE INDICATED THAT THE BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HAD GONE WELL AND THAT NOW IT WAS UP TO THE BELGIANS AS TO WHAT WOULD EVOLVE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. AS FOR FRANCE, HE INDICATED THAT THE POMPIDOU VISIT HAD GIVEN HIM THE OPPORTUNITY OF PUTTING RELATIONS BACK WHERE THEY BELONGED FOLLOWING THE 2,500TH ANNIVERSARY RUBARB.

HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE
FRENCH AT ARM'S LENGTH BUT THAT THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR SHOULD
BE PERMITTED TO GO ON ONLY FOR SO LONG. NOW RELATIONS WERE
REGULARIZED. THE SHAH CONFIRMED THAT POMPIDOU HAD VOLUN-
TEERED TO HIM THAT HE WOULD RUN AGAIN FOR ELECTION IN
1976 IN ORDER TO PREVENT MITTERAND FROM BECOMING PRESIDENT
OF FRANCE. THE SHAH MUSED AS TO WHY POMPIDOU SHOULD HAVE
SAID THIS IF THE RECURRING STORIES ABOUT HIS ILL HEALTH
WERE AT ALL TRUE. THERE THEN ENSUED A DIALOGUE WITH
HISTORICAL ANALOGIES ABOUT WORLD LEADERS WHO HAD GONE
TO GREAT LENGTHS WHILE IN OFFICE TO HIDE SERIOUS AILMENTS.
HELMS

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